



12-2-02

Livestock and Seed Programs
Agriculture Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am writing to go on record as being opposed to the USDA proposal to buy irradiated food for commodity purchase programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

Irradiated food is inappropriate for the following reasons:

The health effects of children consuming irradiated meat are unknown. However, we do know that irradiating food causes the creation of unique chemicals. In addition, research has shown numerous health problems in lab animals that ate irradiated food, including reproductive problems, genetic damage and cancer development. This evidence is enough to indicate children's health could be adversely affected by these new chemicals.

Parents have a right to know what their children are eating, and as irradiated food served in schools does not require labeling, this right is being revoked with the introduction of irradiated foods.

Irradiating food depletes nutrients and masks filthy meat. It is unethical to feed children 'dirty' and nutritionally deficient food.

The evidence is clear that irradiated foods expose children to unacceptable risks. Please act responsibly on behalf of innocent children; keep irradiated food out of the National School Lunch programs.

Sincerely,



Susan Biesek